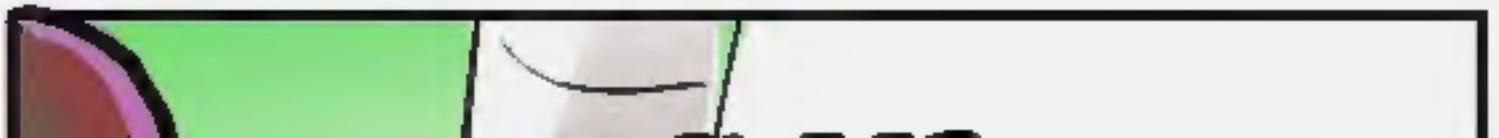
GRZZZT!!

WHO GOES THERE!?

SLORP



SLORP

WHAT?

HOW'D AN "ALOT" GET ALL THE WAY UP HERE?

AND
WHY IS IT
SO CUTE!?

HAHAHA
C'MERE
LITTLE
GUY!

C'MERE!

WIGGLE

WIGGLE

SLORP

WIGGLE

SLORP

WHATCHA DOIN' UP 'ERE LITTLE GUY?

SKSH

SKSH

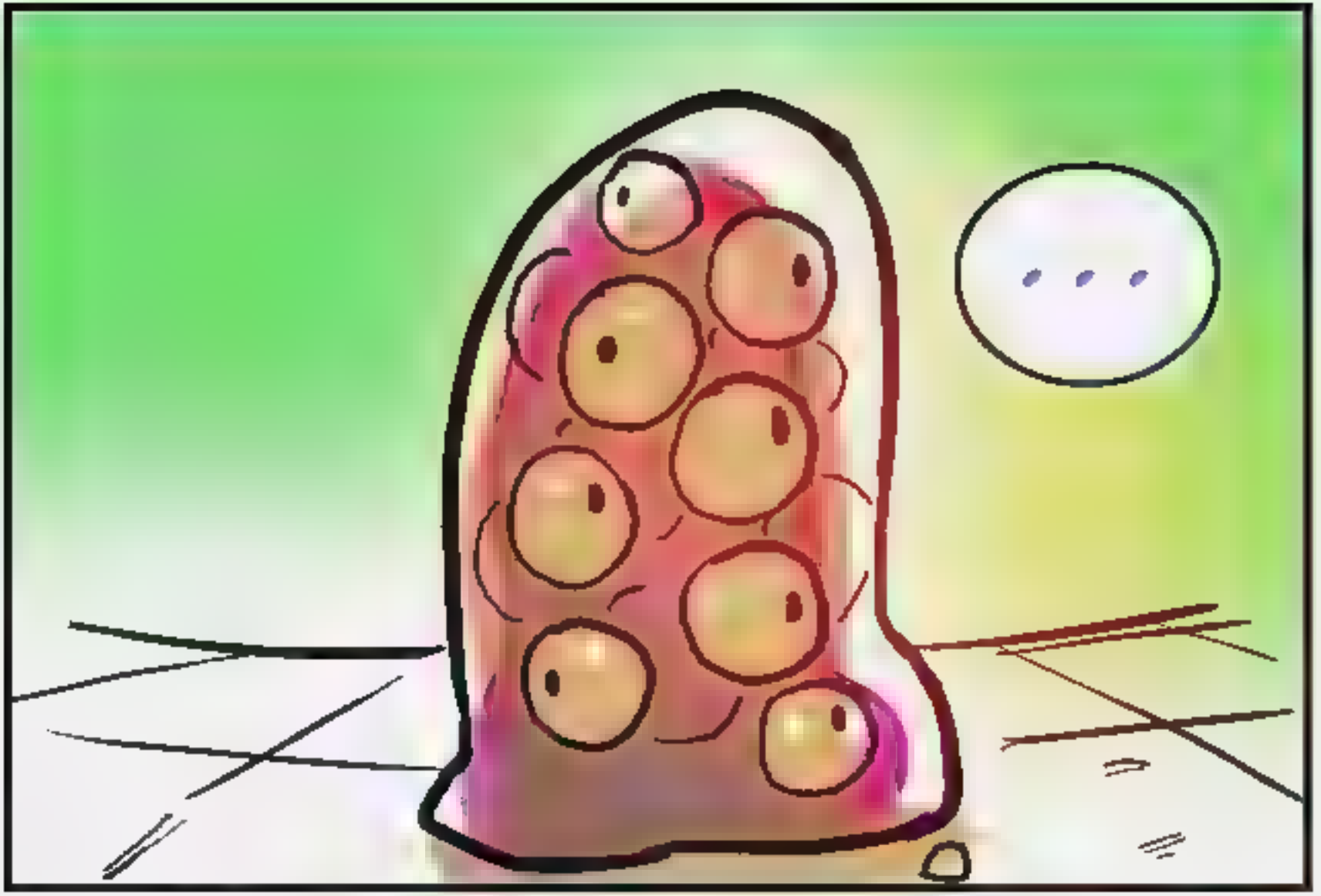
SMASH!

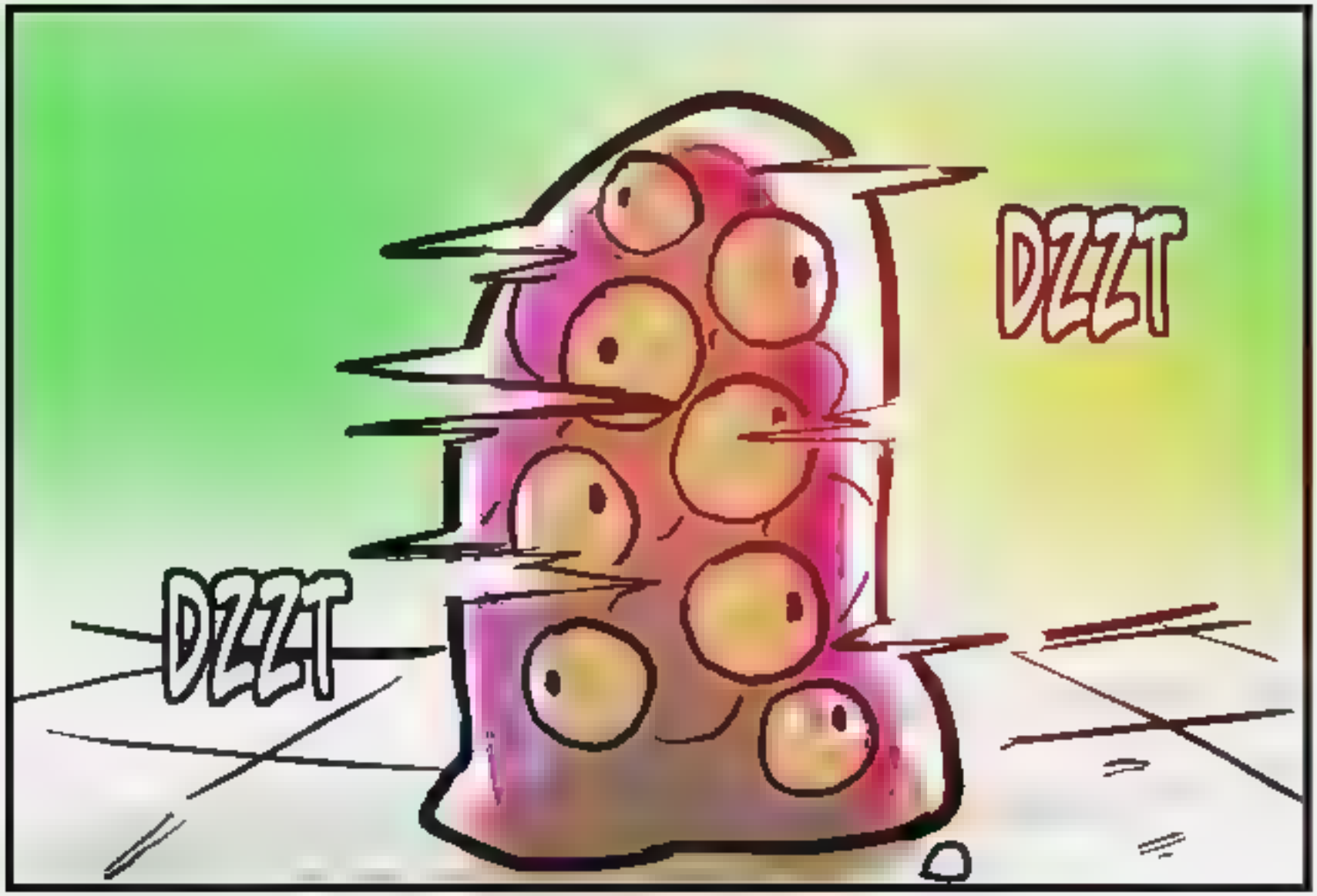
FLOP
THUD!

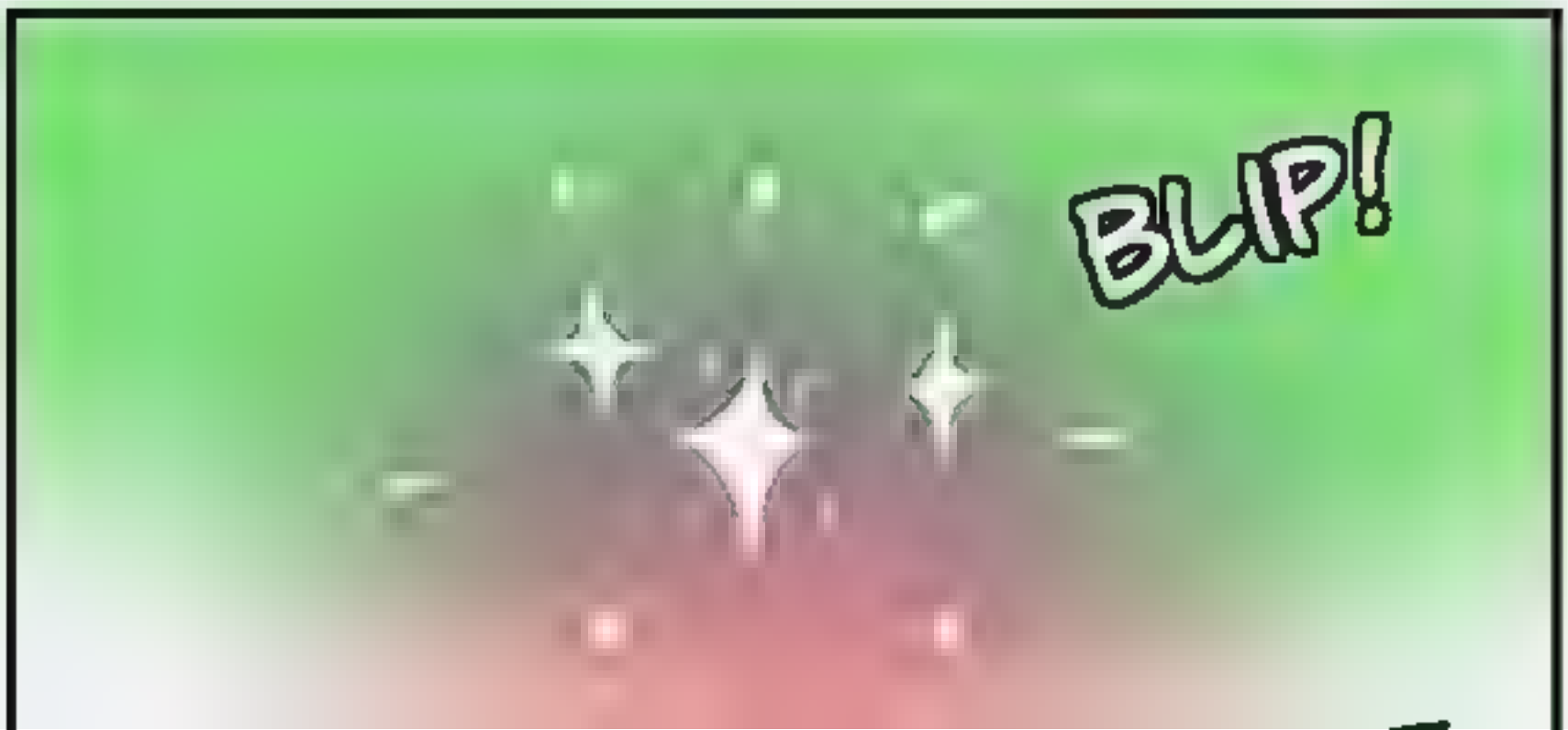
ROOM of SWORDS

CHAPTER 44

"ALONG THE WAY"




DZZT
DZZT


BLIP!

YOU DID GREAT, SCOUT!

AND WHO KNEW THAT SLIME I SCANNED IN THE CAVE WOULD END UP BEING THE PERFECT DISTRACTION?

THANK YOU.

USER GYRUS.
MY NEW OFFENSIVE PROTOCOL APPEARS TO BE FUNCTIONING PROPERLY.

I SHOULD NOW BE MORE USE TO YOU IN COMBAT SCENARIOS.

I GUESS SCOUT CAN DO MORE THAN MAKE MAPS AFTERALL...

I UPDATED HIS PROGAMMING WITH COMBAT PROTOCOLS.

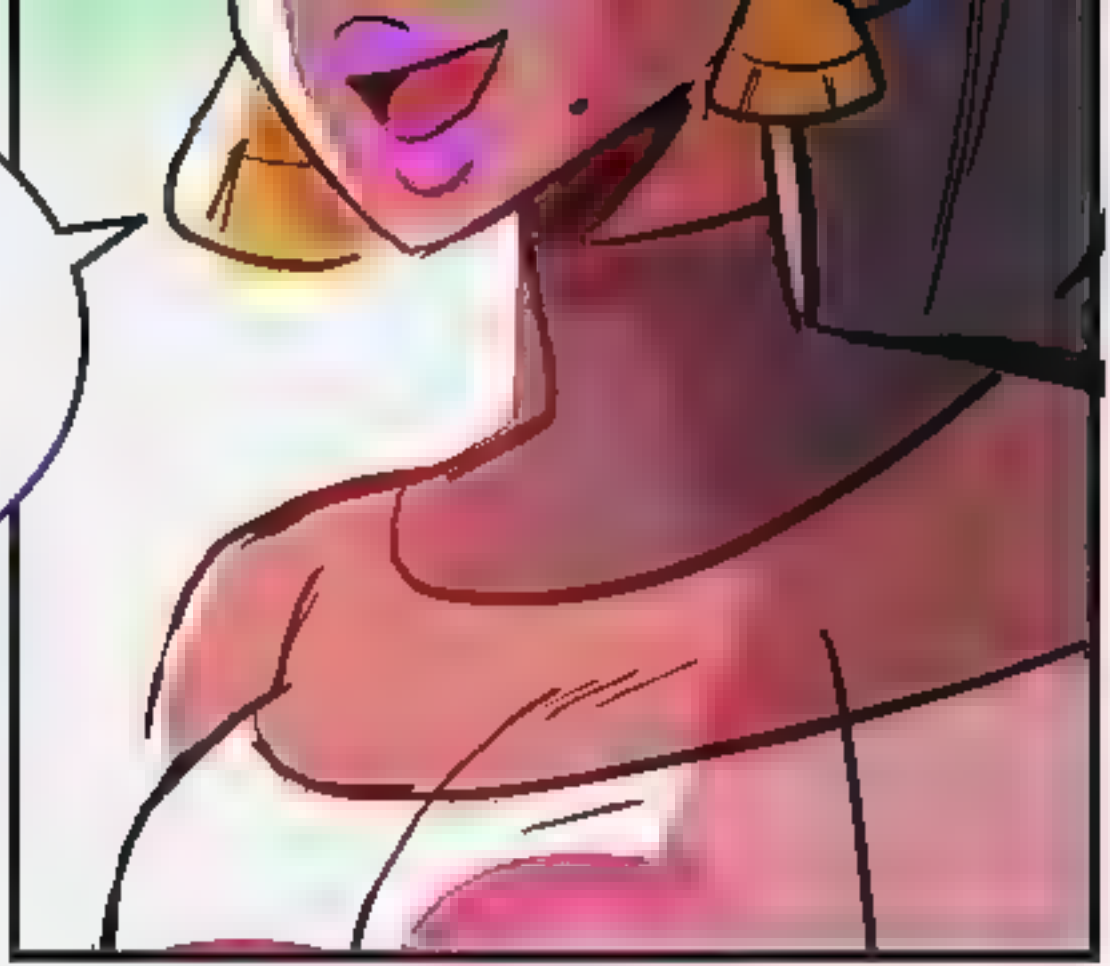
EVEN SCOUT HAS HAD TO LEARN A FEW NEW THINGS IN ORDER TO SURVIVE IN THIS PLACE.

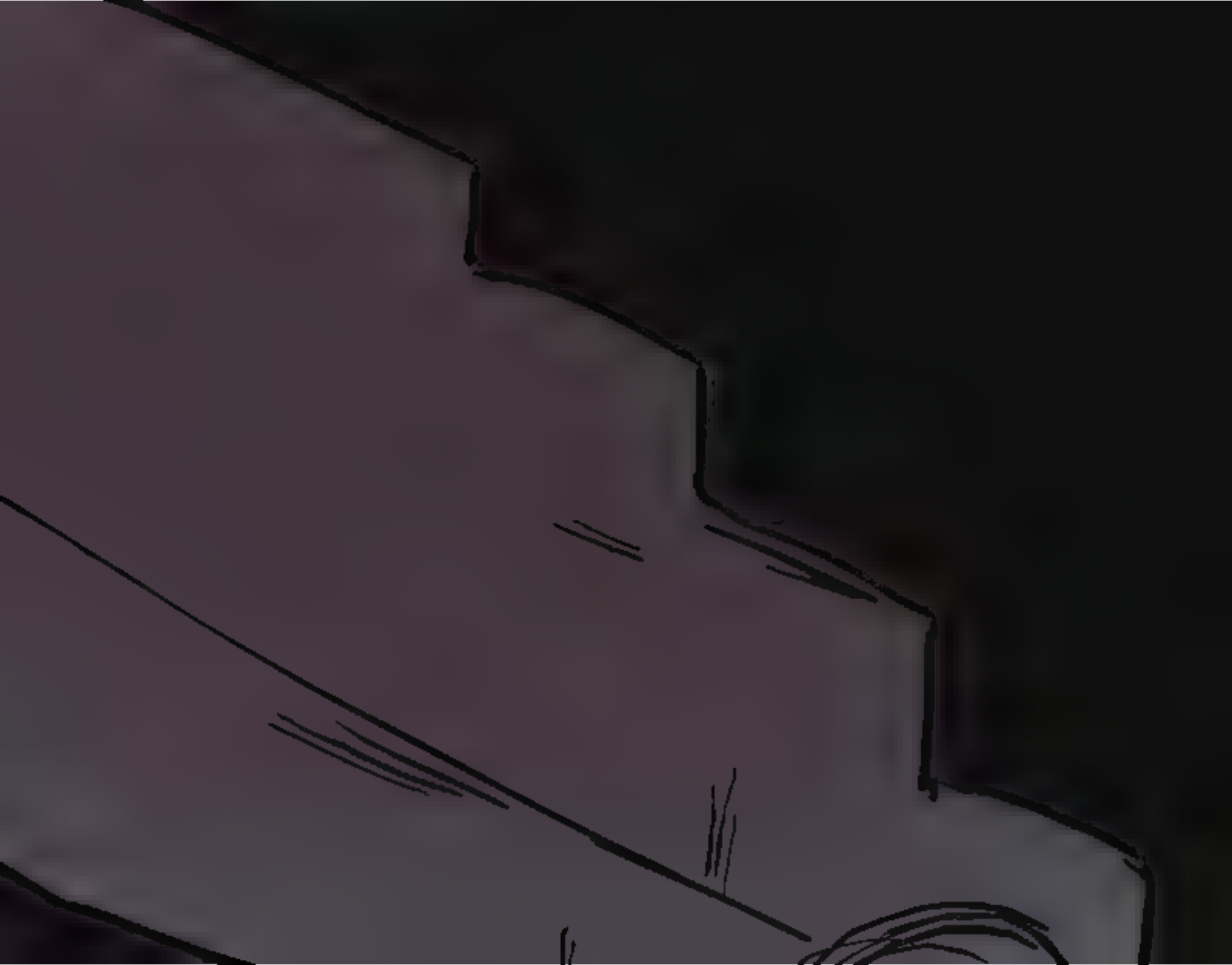
STORE!

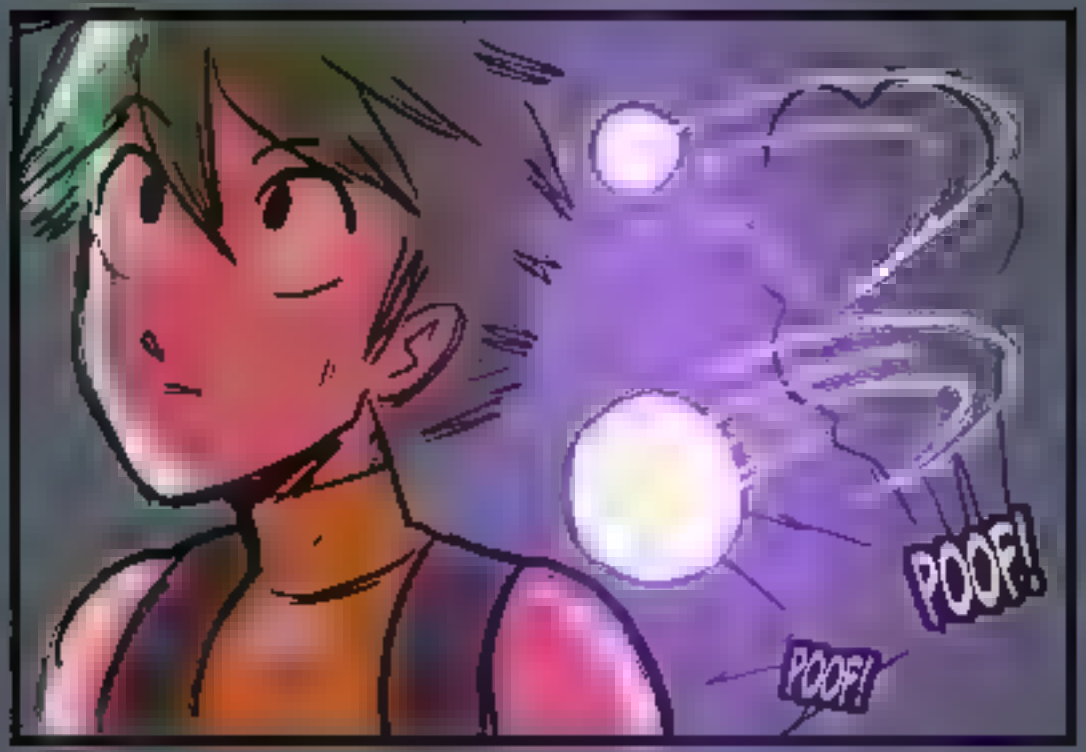
WELL
IT'S CERTAINLY
COMING IN
HANDY!

HANDY.

WE'RE BEST OFF SAVING OUR OWN ENERGY TO FIGHT TWO.






POOF!
POOF!

KSHH

KSHH

AAACK!

THUD!

HUFF

HUFF

UGH...

...GYRUS?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, DEAR?
HUFF
HUFF

I THINK SO...

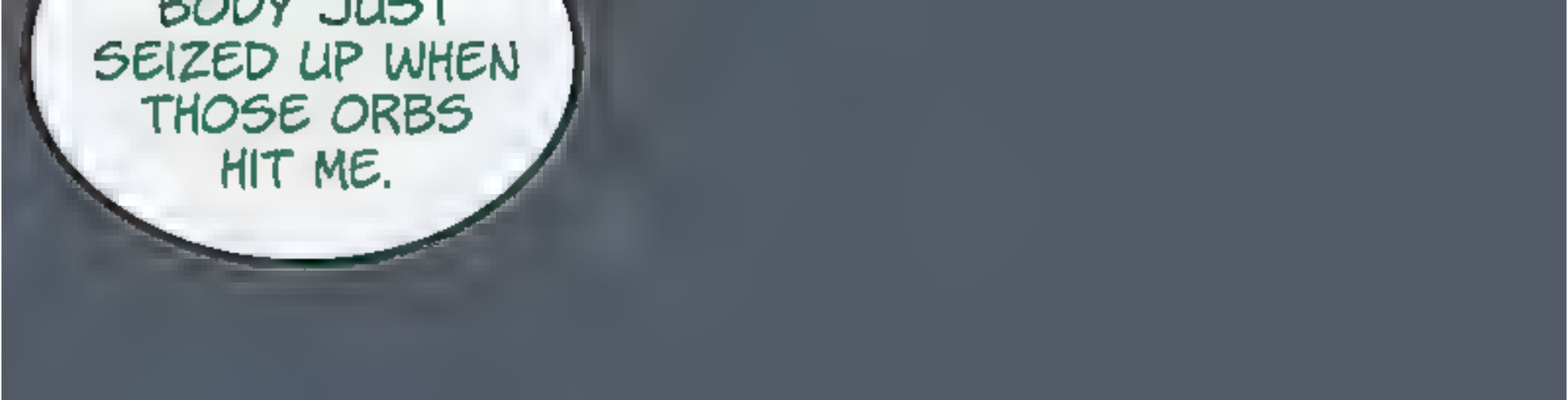
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT...

?

BRUSH

BRUSH

MY WHOLE BODY JUST


BODY JUST
SEIZED UP WHEN
THOSE ORBS
HIT ME.

HMM... THOSE ORBS FROM THE GUARDS THAT SCOUT JUST DEFEATED?
TAP
TAP
I GUESS SINCE SCOUT BELONGS TO YOU, HE'S KIND OF LIKE A WEAPON, SO THE CREDIT FOR THE KILL GOES TO YOU.

DO YOU MIND IF I CHECK SOMETHING?

TOUCH

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

JUST AS
I THOUGHT...

I BELIEVE YOU'VE REACHED YOUR "BREAKING POINT".
YOU

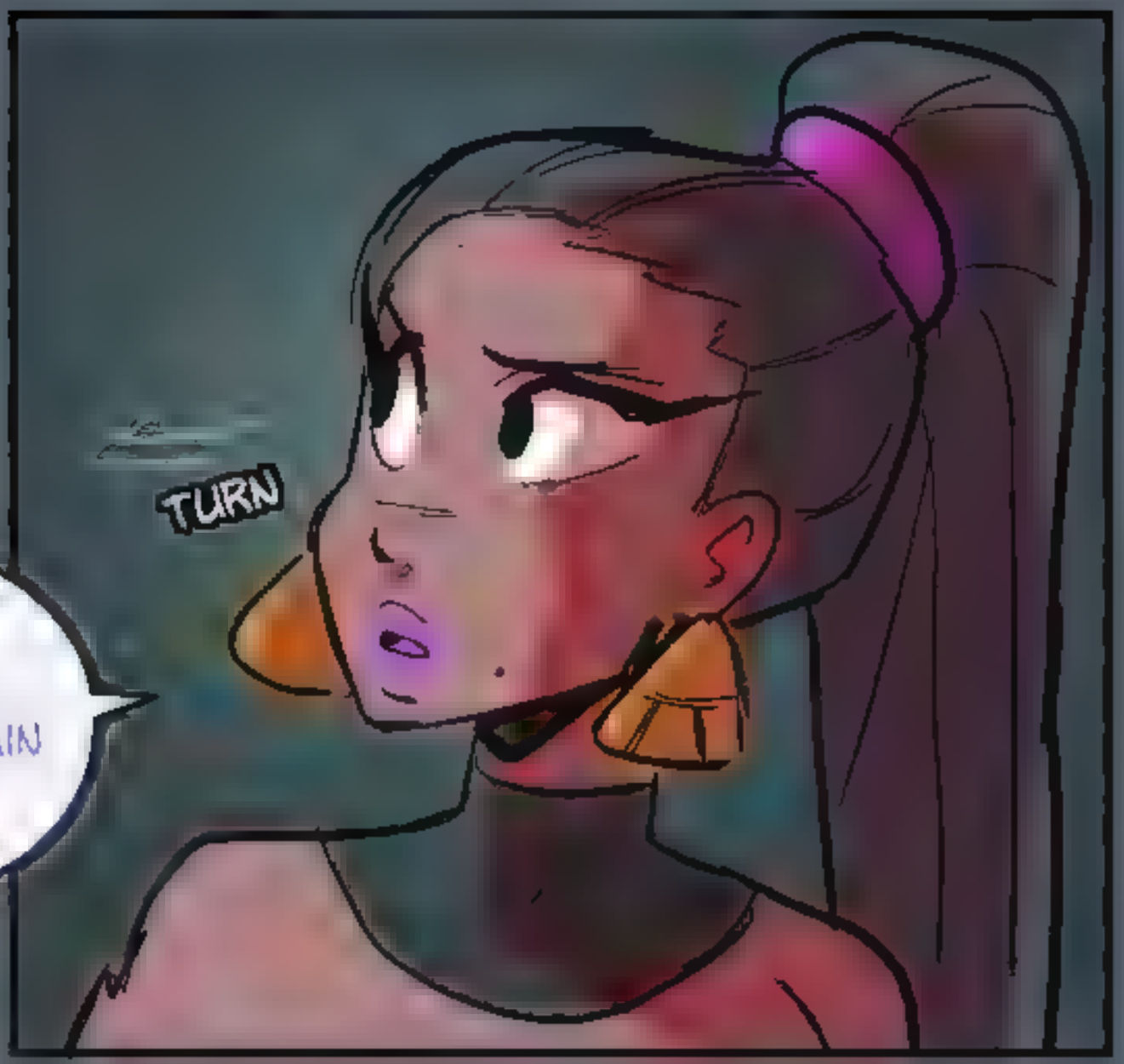
TOUCHING MY FACE?

NO, SILLY, I WAS CHECKING YOUR EYES!

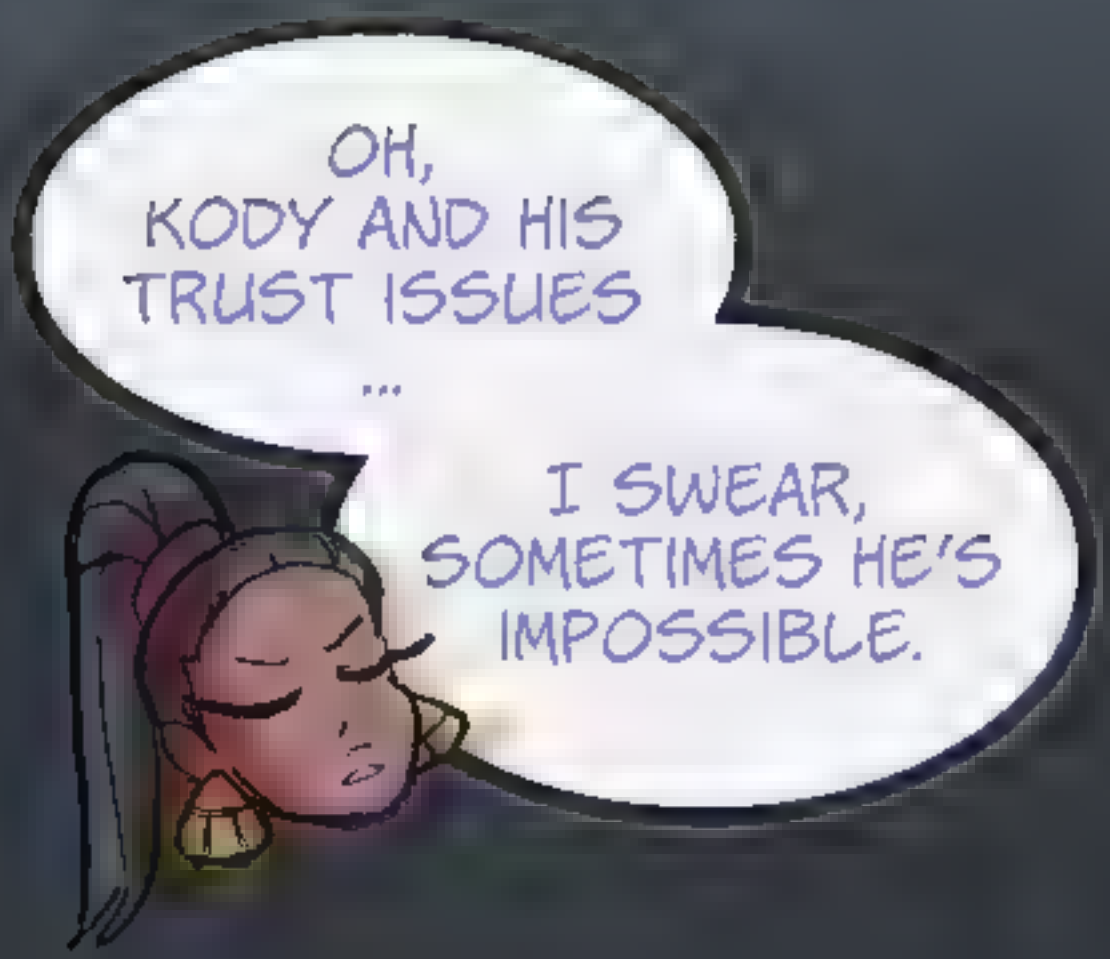
THEY'RE GLOWING.

WHAT IS A "BREAKING

POINT"? IS IT DANGEROUS?



UH...
I DON'T KNOW
IF HE WANTED--
NAY,
HE DID
NOT.


OH,
KODY AND HIS
TRUST ISSUES
...
I SWEAR,
SOMETIMES HE'S
IMPOSSIBLE.

WELL, NO MATTER! I'LL TRY TO GIVE YOU THE SHORT VERSION FOR NOW...
EVERYTIME YOU'RE IN A FIGHT YOU ACCUMULATE A SPECIAL KIND OF ENERGY THAT WE CALL "RUIN".
IF YOU KILL AN ENEMY, YOU EARN ALL OF THE "RUIN" ENERGY THAT THEY MAY HAVE ACCUMULATED

WHICH APPEARS AS AN ORB IN CONCENTRATED AMOUNTS.

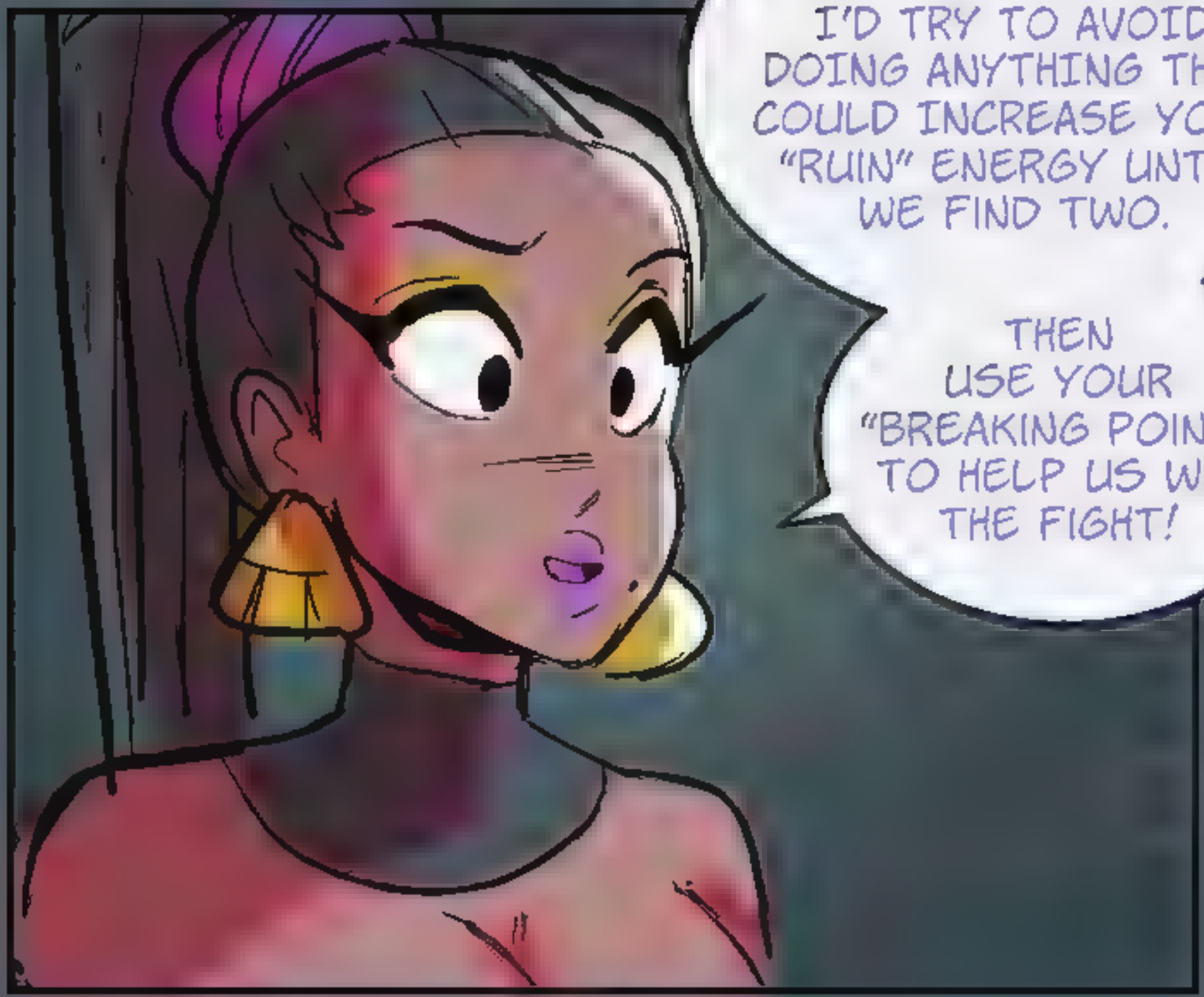
EVERYONE HAS A SORT OF "LIMIT" TO HOW MUCH OF THIS ENERGY THEY CAN STORE, AND WHEN YOU REACH IT, THIS IS CALLED YOUR "BREAKING POINT".

IF YOU HAVE A BOSS SWORD, YOU CAN RELEASE "RUIN" ENERGY TO DEAL AN ULTIMATE "ATTACK"!

BUT IF YOU DON'T RELEASE IT, WELL... THERE'S A REASON IT'S CALL A "BREAKING POINT"

THE GOOD NEWS IS YOU'LL HAVE A FEW WARNING SIGNS BEFORE THE BUILD UP OF ENERGY DOES YOU IN...
FOR EXAMPLE: GLOWING EYES, DIZZY SPELLS, MUSCLE SPASMS AND FAINTING!

SO WHAT SHOULD I DO?


WELL...
IF I WERE YOU, I'D TRY TO AVOID DOING ANYTHING THAT COULD INCREASE YOUR "RUIN" ENERGY UNTIL WE FIND TWO.
THEN USE YOUR "BREAKING POINT" TO HELP US WIN THE FIGHT!

BUT...
I'M NOT
SURE I KNOW
HOW.

JUST THINK OF YOUR SWORD AS AN EXTENSION OF YOUR BODY AND CHANNEL YOUR ENERGY THROUGH IT!

BUT MY SWORD IS STILL BROKEN... WHAT IF IT DOESN'T WORK?

I SUPPOSE WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL WE TRY. LET'S HOPE FOR THE BEST!

ARE YOU OKAY TO PRESS ON?

YEAH... I'M FINE, LET'S GO.

TAK

TAK

TAK
TAK

NEPHTHYS, MAY I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

TURN

HUH? WHAT IS IT TORI?

HOW

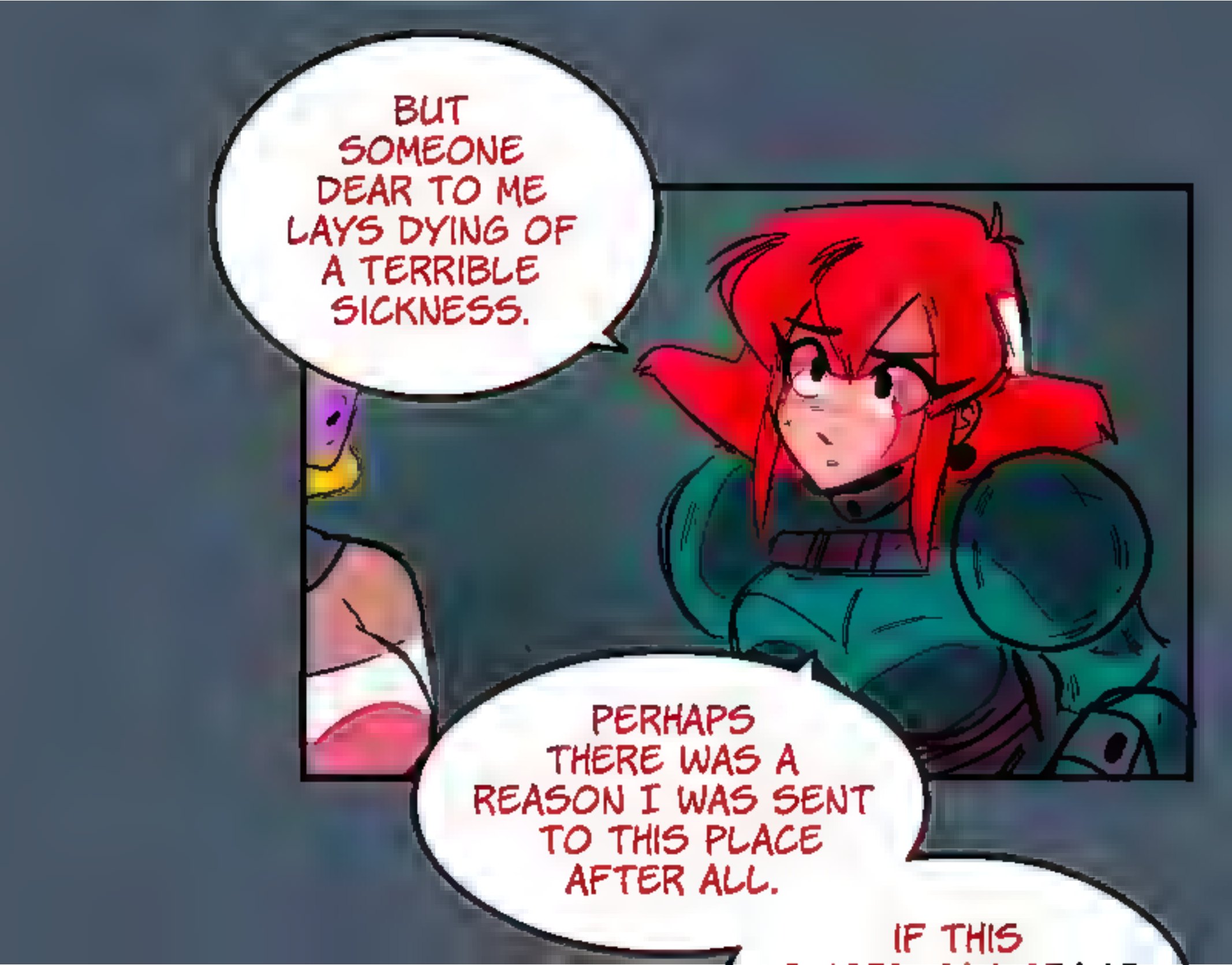
DIDST YE COME BY THY HEALING MAGIC?
AH, WELL... HOW CAN I EXPLAIN? IT'S SOMETHING THAT I LEARNED WHEN I FIRST ACQUIRED A BOSS SWORD.

I SEE...
THERE IS MORE TO THESE SWORDS THAN I IMAGINED...
IN

THAT CASE, I MUST HAVE ONE.

...
MAY I ASK WHY?

I NORMALLY HAVE LITTLE TRUST OF MAGIC AND THOSE WHO USE IT...


BUT SOMEONE DEAR TO ME LAYS DYING OF A TERRIBLE SICKNESS.
PERHAPS THERE WAS A REASON I WAS SENT TO THIS PLACE AFTER ALL.
IF THIS

SWORD CAN GRANT MAGIC TO HEAL HER, I MUST LEARN IT.

OH DEAR...

I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT... I THINK IT'S VERY DOUBTFUL THAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO LEARN THIS SKILL EVEN WITH A SWORD...

UNLESS YOU TURN OUT TO BE A HEALING CLASS... WHICH SEEMS

IMPROBABLE BECAUSE OF YOUR FIGHTING ABILITY.

I SEE...

LISTEN,
I KNOW HOW
YOU FEEL.

YOU SEE, BEFORE I ENDED UP HERE, I WAS A TRUSTED PRIESTESS IN MY CITY.

PEOPLE WHO WERE SICK AND INJURED WOULD COME TO MY TEMPLE, SEEKING AID.
OR SEEKING PROPHECY.

FOR A WHILE, I WAS ABLE TO HELP MANY PEOPLE.

BUT WHEN I FORESAW THE COMING OF WAR, I COULD DO NOTHING TO STOP IT.
PEOPLE WOULD COME TO ME WITH PRAYER AND THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO.
I WOULD TREAT THOSE WHO FOUGHT, BUT WAS POWERLESS TO PROTECT THEM.

EVENTUALLY MY FRIENDS, MY FAMILY, PEOPLE WHO BELIEVED IN ME...
I WAS UNABLE TO SAVE THEM.
MANY

FOR THE POWER TO DEFEND MY PEOPLE.

BUT, WELL, HERE I AM IN A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE HAVE ALL SORTS OF MIRACULOUS FIGHTING POWER...

AND I STILL ENDED UP BEING A HEALER.

WE CAN'T FIGHT OUR NATURE...
THE SWORDS MERELY AMPLIFY OUR STRENGTHS.

BUT
DON'T WORRY,
YOU WILL FIND YOUR
OWN STRENGTH IN
THIS PLACE.

AND I HAVE A FEELING YOU WILL DO GREAT THINGS WITH IT.

IF I DO INDEED ACQUIRE "MIRACULOUS FIGHTING POWER", AS YOU SAY...

THEN IF IT IS AT ALL POSSIBLE TO HELP YE WHEN WE RETURN FROM THIS PLACE... I WILL.
THAT IS VERY KIND.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT...
GRAB!

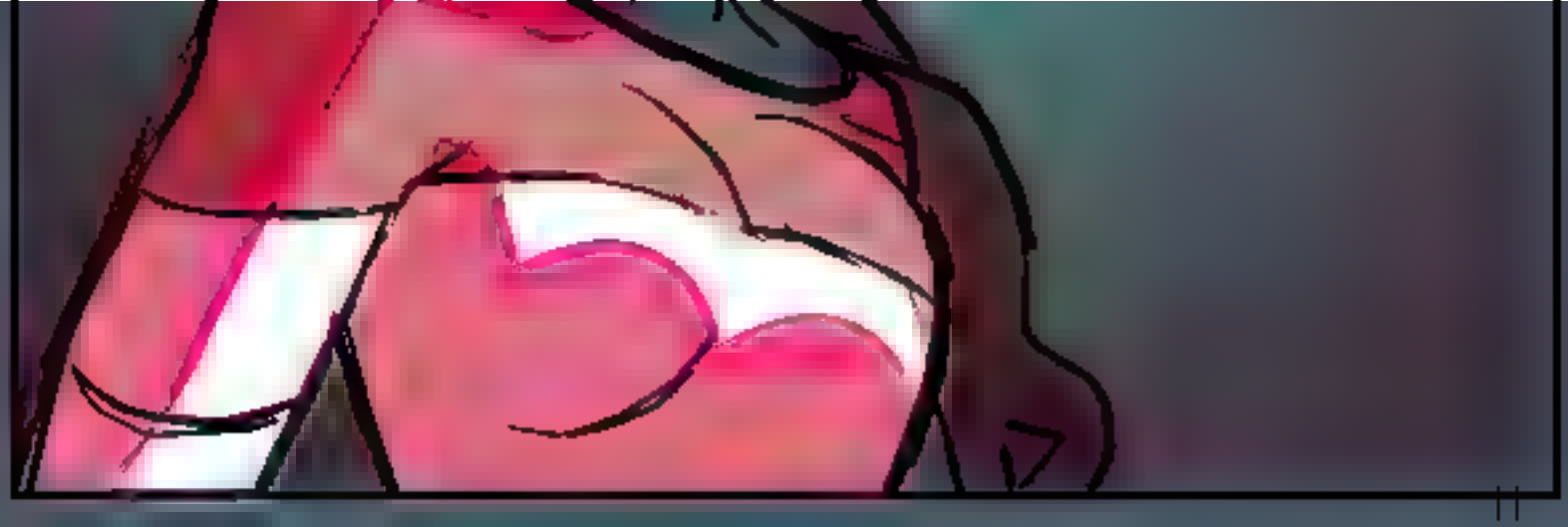
IF IT
DOES TURN OUT TO
BE POSSIBLE, I WILL
GLADLY RETURN THE
FAVOR.

CRASH!

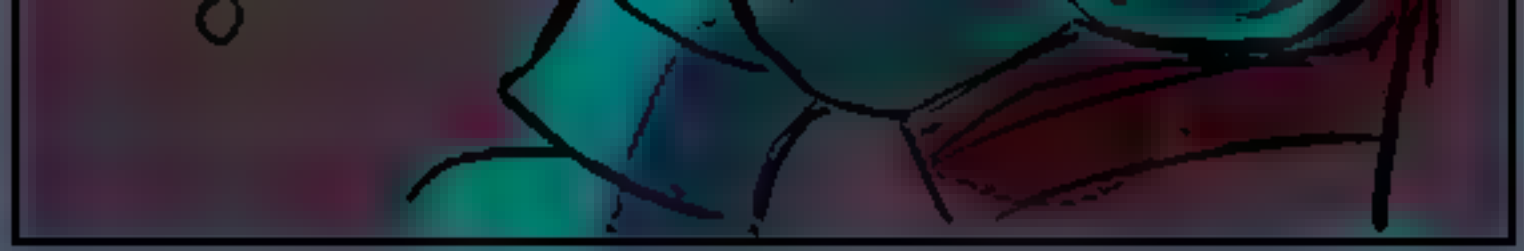
SHAKE

SHAKE

THAT CAME FROM THE TOP OF THE TOWER....
DO YOU THINK IT WAS TWO?



WHATEVER IT IS, IT MUST BE STRONG TO CAUSE THE WHOLE TOWER TO SHAKE SO...



IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY...
ALL WE HAVE TO

DO IS PEAK INSIDE...

AND IF IT'S TWO, WE'LL CALL THE OTHERS LIKE WE AGREED.

TAK

TAK

TAK

TAK

R

!!!NG?!

OH, THAT'S LOUD!
QUICK! ANSWER BEFORE

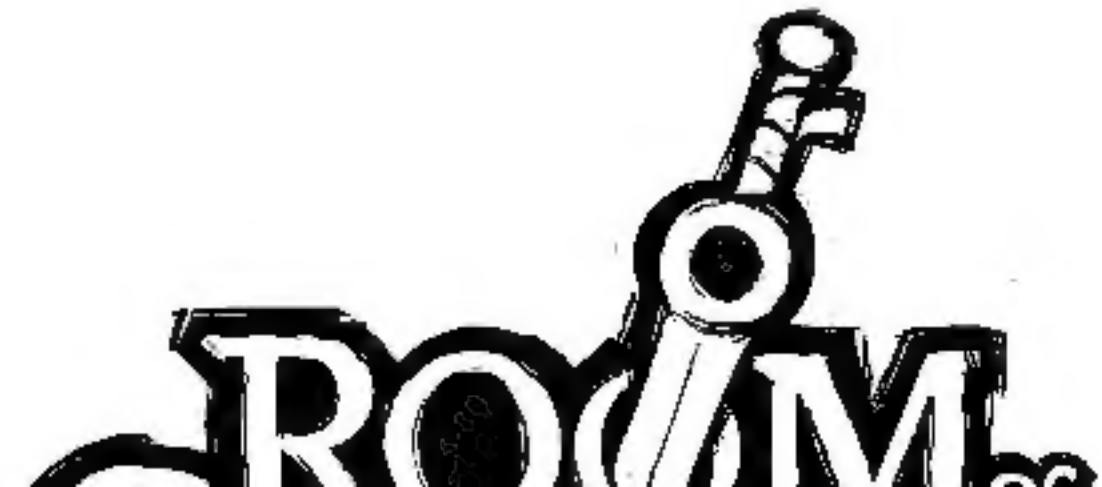
SOMETHING HEARS US!

INCOMING CALL...

KODYA

WAIT A MINUTE ...

DOES THIS MEAN THEY FOUND TWO?
THEN...
TURN
WHO'S IN *THERE*?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